

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 6 and 13 have been canceled.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-5, 7-12, 14, and 15 are now pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0002957 (hereafter "Moteki et al.") and U.S. Patent No. 1,959,279 (hereafter "Stearns"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to incorporate subject matter of claims 4 and 6. Claim 6 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Moteki et al. and Stearns for at least this reason.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 6-12 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 9-12 and 14 have been amended to be placed in independent form.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date _____

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By _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Schwaab', written over a horizontal line.

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